

# IDAHO NEWS RELEASE



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## IDAHO RED MEAT PRODUCTION DOWN 6 PERCENT

Commercial red meat production at Idaho packing plants for September 2003 totaled 48.3 million pounds, down 6 percent from last year according to the Idaho Agricultural Statistics Service. September production was up 8 percent from August's 44.7 million pounds. Accumulated red meat production for the January-September 2003 period totaled 443 million pounds, down 4 percent from the comparable period a year earlier.

Red meat production for the United States totaled 4.01 billion pounds in September, a monthly record high, up 3 percent from the 3.87 billion pounds produced in September 2002. Beef production, at 2.31 billion pounds and a monthly record high, was 5 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.12 million head, up 9 percent from September 2002. The average live weight was 1,227 pounds, down 36 pounds from September a year ago. Pork production totaled 1.66 billion pounds a monthly record high, up 2 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.55 million head, 1 percent above September 2002. The average live weight was 3 pound above the previous year, at 263 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 16.9 million pounds, was down 4 percent from September 2002. Sheep slaughter totaled 256,300 head, 7 percent below last year. The average live weight was 131 pounds, up 3 pounds from September a year ago. January-September red meat production was 35.0 billion pounds, down slightly from 2002. Accumulated beef production was down slightly from last year, veal was down 1 percent, pork was up slightly from last year, and lamb & mutton production was down 9 percent.

**For More Information Call: (208) 334-1507.**